

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 OIC-02

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NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ORM-01 SR-02

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TAGS: SHUM, SGEN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 58TH ECOSOC--INFORMAL WEO MEETING ON SOCIAL
AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

1. INFORMAL WEO MEETING HELD APRIL 3 TO DISCUSS SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES COMING BEFORE 58TH ECOSOC. PRESENT WERE REPS OF BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, UK, US.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

A. CHILE. ALL PRESENT AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF NOT DILUTING HCR RES ESTABLISHING STUDY GROUP. DANGER SEEN WOULD BE ATTEMPT TO ADD CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE IN ECOSOC RES APPROVING AND FUNDING STUDY GROUP. MOST REPS THOUGHT THAT WHILE SOVIETS MIGHT RAISE QUESTION OF GEOPGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION ON STUDY GROUP, THEY WOULD NOT INSIST ON THIS. FRG REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET MISOFF WHO SAID THAT, WHILE UNINSTRUCTED, HE EXPECTED THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH STUDY GROUP BUT WOULD WISH TO INCLUDE MILDLY CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE IN ECOSOC RES. OVERALL CONSENSUS

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AT WEO MEETING THAT INITIATIVE FOR SECURING A STRICTLY NEUTRAL

PROCEDURAL RES IN ECOSOC RESTED WITH SPONSORS OF HRC RES (SENEGAL, LAS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF AFRO-ASIAN GROUP WHO WERE ACTIVE IN GENEVA) AND THAT WEO MEMBERS OF HRC SHOULD CANVASS THESE REPS TO URGE THEM TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION.

B. NGOS. NO OBJECTION WAS EXPRESSED TO UK SUGGESTION THAT IS DISCUSSING ORGANIZATION OF ECOSOC SESSION, THEY MIGHT RECOMMEND THAT HRC RES ON NGOS BE CONSIDERED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6 (NGOS). UK REP STATED THAT HE FELT RES WOULD BE DEALT WITH MORE FAIRLY IN THAT CONTEXT BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE MAJOR ISSUE OF THIS SHOULD IT BE OPPOSED. IN ADDITION, UK REP CIRCULATED POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO RES (REPORTED SEPTEL). MEETING AGREED THAT "INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS" SHOULD CONFER ON WORDING OF AMENDMENTS AND POSSIBLE SPONSORSHIP. IT WAS FELT THAT NGOS THEMSELVES SHOULD UNDERTAKE MAJOR EFFORT WITH MEMBERS OF ECOSOC TO EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION ON RES AND TO SEEK THEIR SUPPORT IN REVISING HRC DRAFT. MEETING ALSO THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO REFER RES (AND AMENDMENTS) TO NGO COMITE FOR ACTION THOUGH FEASIBILITY OF DOING SO WOULD DEPEND ON MOOD IN ECOSOC.

C. LOCATION OF NEXT HRC SESSION. REPS AGREED TO QUERY HOME GOVERNMENTS ON HRC RECOMMENDATION THAT NEXT SESSION BE HELD IN GENEVA. GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT MAJOR CONSIDERATION WOULD BE COST. DANGER THAT RESCHEDULING NEXT SESSION FOR GENEVA WOULD BE FIRST STEP IN HAVING HRC MEETING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD BRIEFLY DISCUSSED WITH MOST REPS INDICATING OBJECTION TO MOVING HRC OUT OF NY-GENEVA SETTING. FRG REP OBSERVED THAT ATMOSPHERE IN GENEVA WAS FAR LESS POLITICALLY CHARGED THAN IN NY AND WAS THEREFORE MORE CONDUCTIVE TO CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW HE INCLINED TO FAVOR RES IN QUESTION BUT REALIZED THERE WERE CONSIDERATIONS OF COST AND PRECEDENT.

3. NGO PARTICIPATION IN WCIWY. ALTHOUGH HE NOT SURE WHERE IT WILL BE RAISED ON AGENDA, UK REP SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CHINESE WOULD OBJECT TO MANY ORGANIZATIONS ON PROPOSED LIST OF NGOS TO BE INVITED TO WCIWY ON GROUNDS THAT THEY HAVE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

4. WCIWY INVITATION TO OTHER ENTITIES. AUSTRALIAN REP NOTED THAT THEY WOULD BE SEEKING OBSERVER STATUS FOR PAPUA AND NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GUINEA SINCE, CONTRARY TO EARLIER EXPECTATIONS, THESE TWO AREAS WILL NOT BE INDEPENDENT AT TIME OF CONFERENCE.

5. NARCOTIC DRUGS. UK REP NOTED THAT NARCOTICS COMMISSION HAS SCHEDULED MEETING FOR 1976 INSPITE OF ECOSOC URGING OF BIENNIAL MEETINGS AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE AN ISSUE. US REP NOTED CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE 1976 MEETING WOULD GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED.

6. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THESE QUESTIONS WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY CONTENTIOUS ALTHOUGH ISSUE OF CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS) WAS BOUND TO ARISE. UK REP NOTED THAT WEO'S WERE BY NO MEANS OF ONE MIND ON CERDS. HE ADDED THAT UK WOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW RULE OF VOTING AGAINST SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CERDS, ABSTAINING ON PARA AND VOTING FOR WHOLE RES, ASSUMING REF TO CERDS WAS ONLY OBJECTIONABLE ELEMENT IN IT.

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